

Ladybird

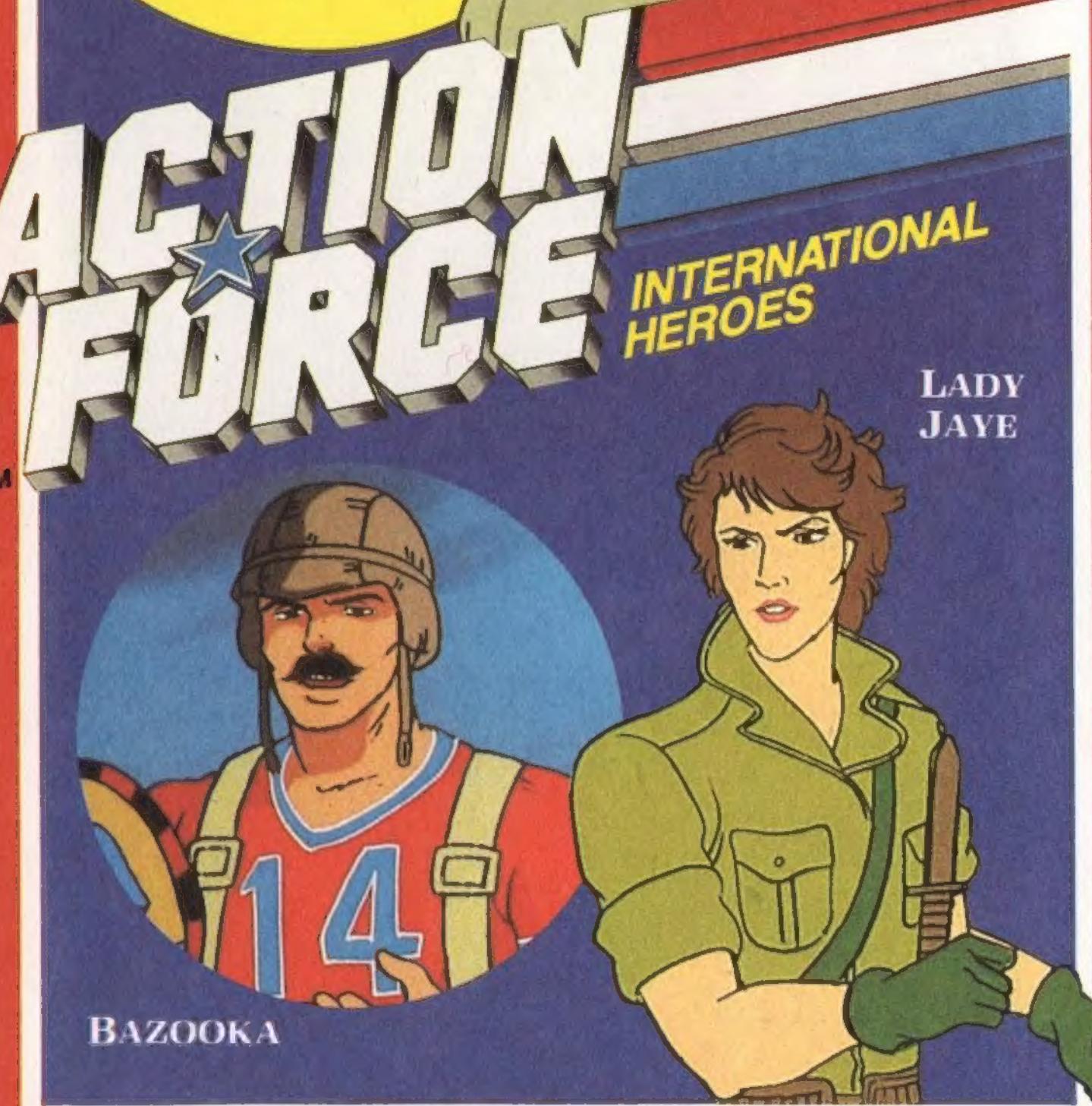
ACTION FORCE

INTERNATIONAL
HEROES

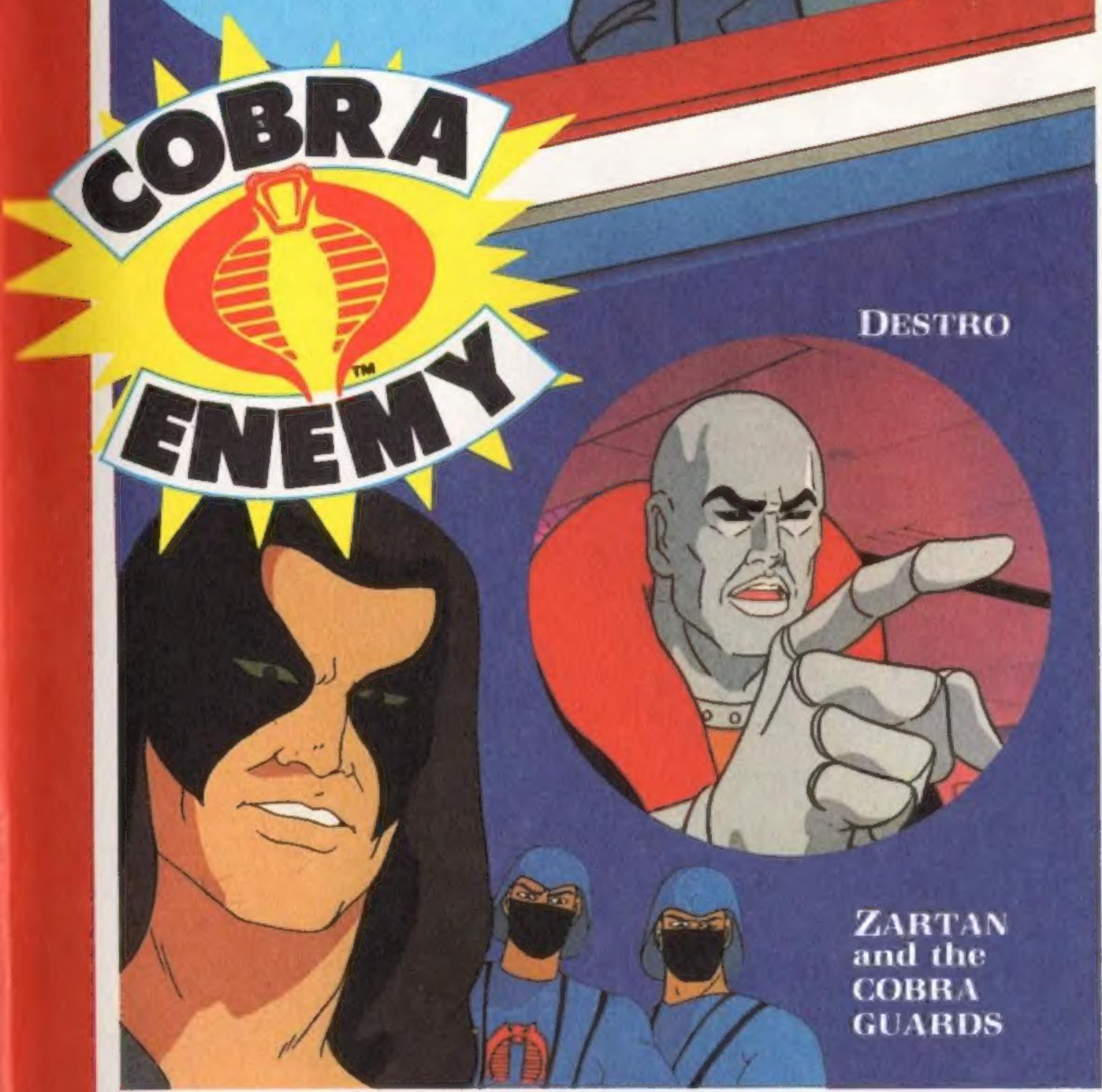
SPY IN THE COBRA CAMP



Warrant Officer
Flint is the European
field commander of
Action Force, a team of
military specialists always
on call to fight evil of any
kind – and especially
Cobra's secret
army.



Cobra
Commander heads
the Cobra organisation.
When the Action Force
team spoils his plans, he
makes new ones – and
they all include the
destruction of Action
Force first...



ACTION FORCE

Action Force is the code name for a highly trained rapid deployment specialist mission force. They are selected from the cream of the world's fighting forces.

ACTION BRIEF

To defend human freedom against Cobra, a ruthless organisation determined to rule the world.

ACTION MISSION

To foil Cobra Commander's threat to flood Europe unless he is made ruler of the world.

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ACTION
FORCE

INTERNATIONAL
HEROES

TM

SPY IN THE COBRA CAMP

story adaptation by C J Ware

Ladybird Books



Action Force thought they were one step ahead of Cobra's evil plans to dominate the world. They were using their new 'spy ear' to listen in to Cobra's war-loving Baroness talking over the radio.

"Vortex Cone in place near Suez Canal, Baroness," reported a frogman from beneath the Mediterranean.

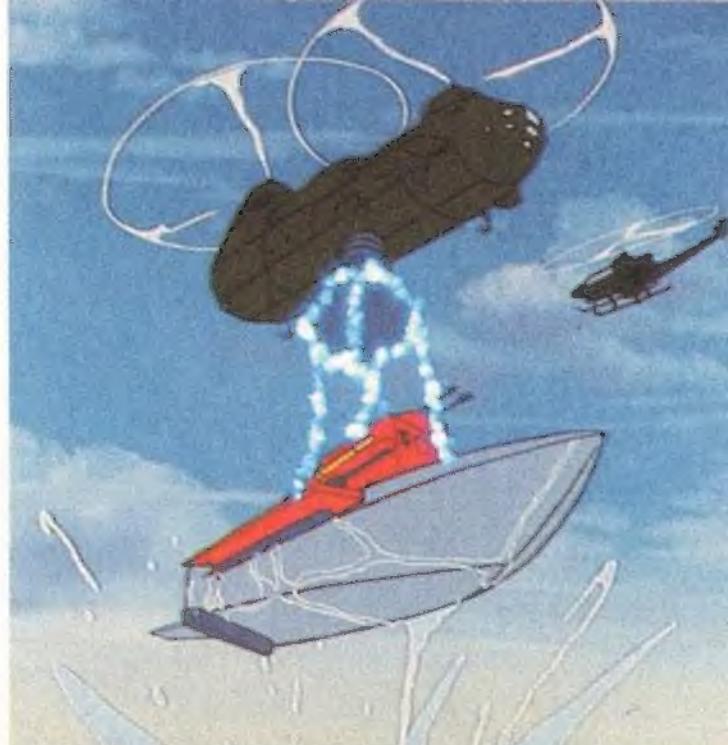
"Goot! Cobra Commander, vee are ready for zee Giant Vortex experiment!"

At Action Force headquarters, Duke decided it was time to go and spoil the Baroness's plan.

Wild Bill flew them out to search the area, and after a while spotted the Baroness's hydrofoil bobbing on the sea.



Activating a huge magnet hanging beneath the helicopter, he pulled the hydrofoil out of the water. But just as Flint and Lady Jaye dropped down onto the boat to capture the Baroness, she dived into the sea.

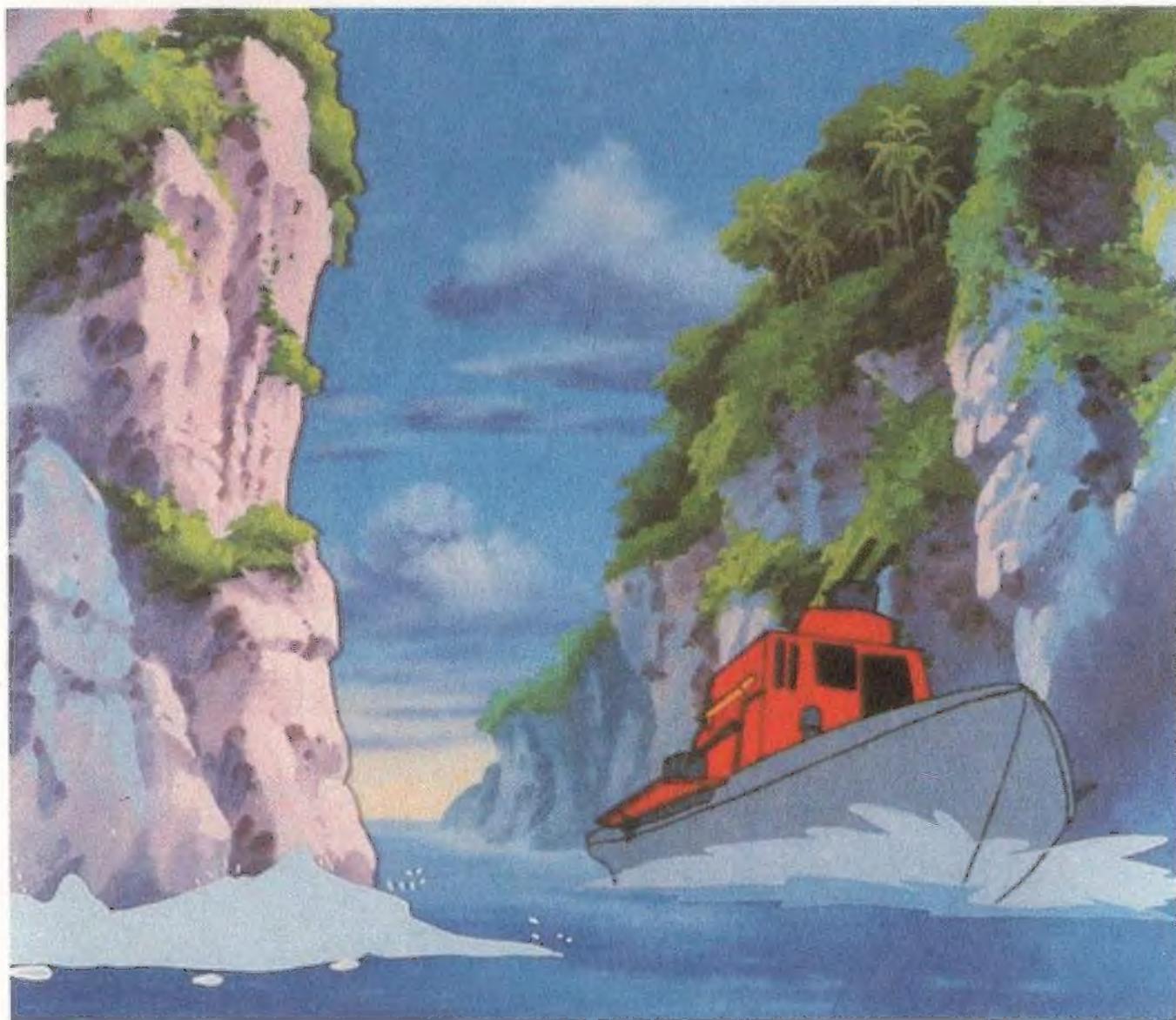


"That's one less Cobra to rattle us," said Flint. "Now let's get the hydrofoil shipshape for our plan. Disengage the magnet, Wild Bill."

The boat splashed back into the sea with Flint and Lady Jaye at the controls.

Lady Jaye quickly disguised herself as the Baroness, just as a video screen appeared on deck.

"Greetingsss, Baronesssss," said Cobra Commander from the screen. "You are looking well. You are alssso right on ssschedule to join usss."



The approaching cliff face in front of the boat split apart. Inside, there was an enormous cavern packed with Cobra equipment and men.

"You copy the Cobra computer program on the Vortex. Then meet me at the launch area – and be careful," whispered Flint, as he slipped over the side into the water.

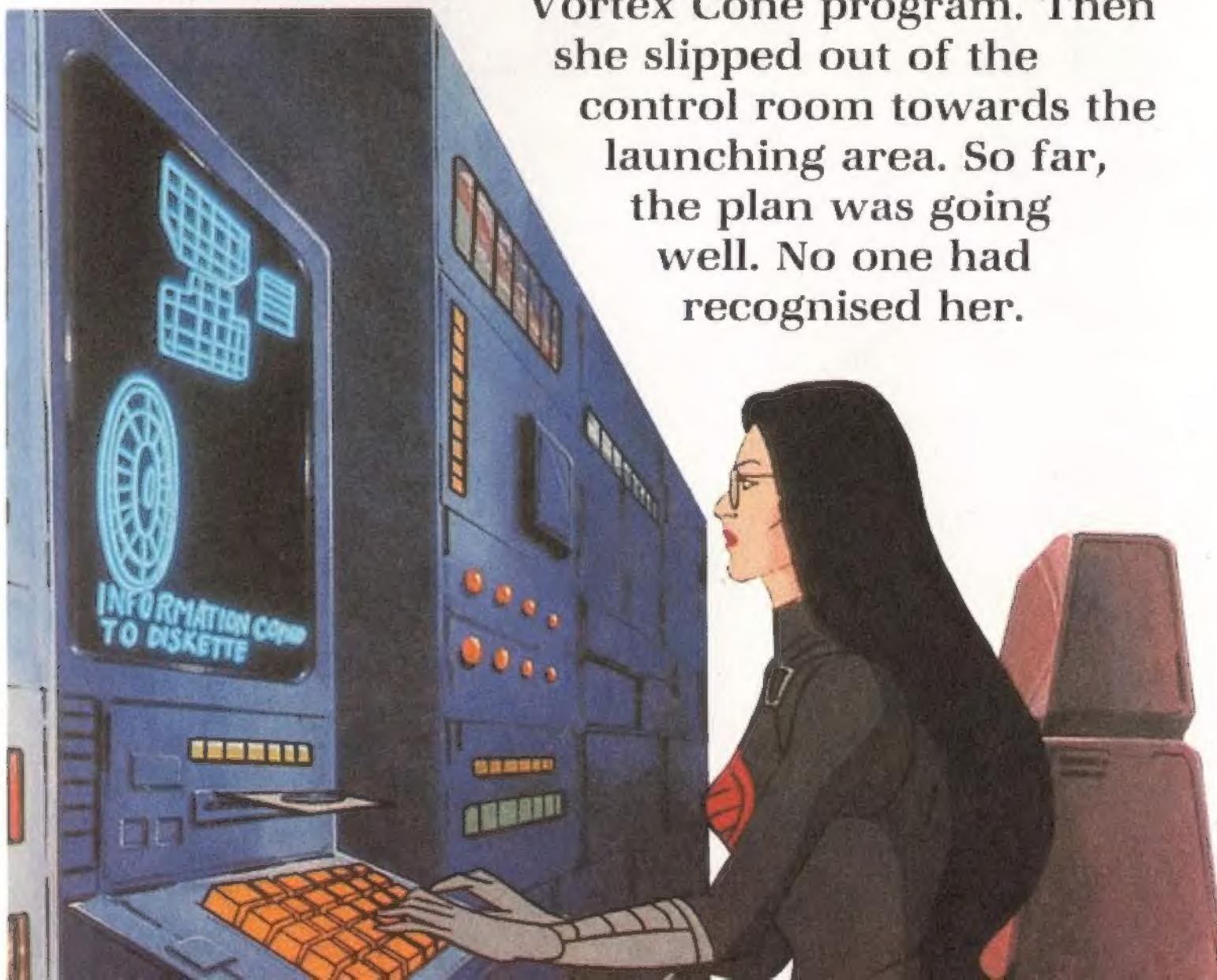
"Welcome ashore, my dear Baroness," said Destro, not realising it was Lady Jaye in disguise.

"Dessstro! Ssstop mooning over the Baronessss like a love-ssstruck ssschoolboy," stormed Cobra Commander.

"Come and look at this."

While the two men bent over the chart table, Lady Jaye slipped across to the Cobra Command computer. She plugged in a blank floppy disc and copied the entire Cobra Giant

Vortex Cone program. Then she slipped out of the control room towards the launching area. So far, the plan was going well. No one had recognised her.



But then trouble started.

"Ahoy! Cobra Commander!" shouted the crew of an approaching Cobra patrol craft. "We've caught a spy swimming in."



"I'm no spy, you foolz! I am zee Baroness!"

"Then who is this?" Destro pointed at the retreating Lady Jaye, puzzled.

"Sssurround her!" ordered Cobra Commander.



The real Baroness flung herself onto Lady Jaye, fury giving her added strength. She clawed at her enemy like a cat, and after a struggle, ripped off the rubber mask.

"Oh well, I can't win them all," Lady Jaye said to herself, as her identity was revealed.

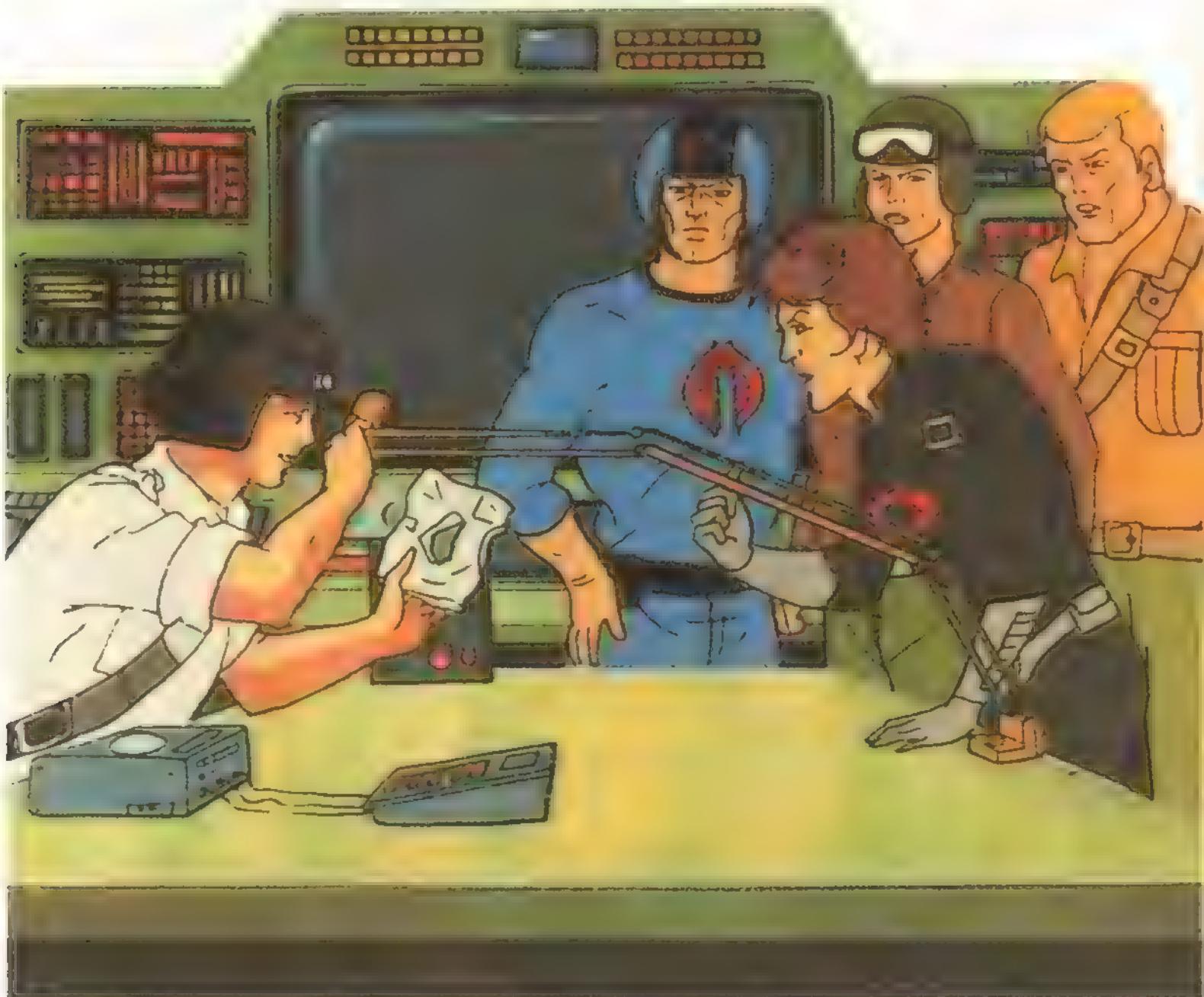
But just as Cobra Commander was ordering the Cobra guards to imprison Lady Jaye, Flint arrived in a hijacked Cobra helicopter.



"Want a lift, young lady?" he asked, plucking her to safety. "This won't get us home, but it *will* get us to that Cobra Rattler jet."

Cobra Commander watched helplessly as the Action Force duo jetted to safety in a Cobra Rattler Squadron jet.

"Here's the computer data you wanted, Main Frame," said Lady Jaye, back at Action Force headquarters. "It's a little crumpled, I'm afraid."



"I'll never get data off it in that state," Main Frame complained.

"Well," said Hawk, "you'll just have to try, while Deep Six and Wet Suit try to get into Cobra's underwater base. The rest of us are going to provide a little diversion."



Meanwhile, Cobra Commander was broadcasting his message to the world.



"Obssserve thisss little demonssstration of our Giant Vortex Cone effect!" he hissed at the television camera.

The screen showed huge electro-magnets lying on the sea bed. Using the sea's electro-magnetic currents, they were whipping up an enormous whirlpool.

This started several tidal waves which began to flood the land.

"Sssurrender within forty-eight hoursss or my Giant Vortex Cone will dessstroy you!"

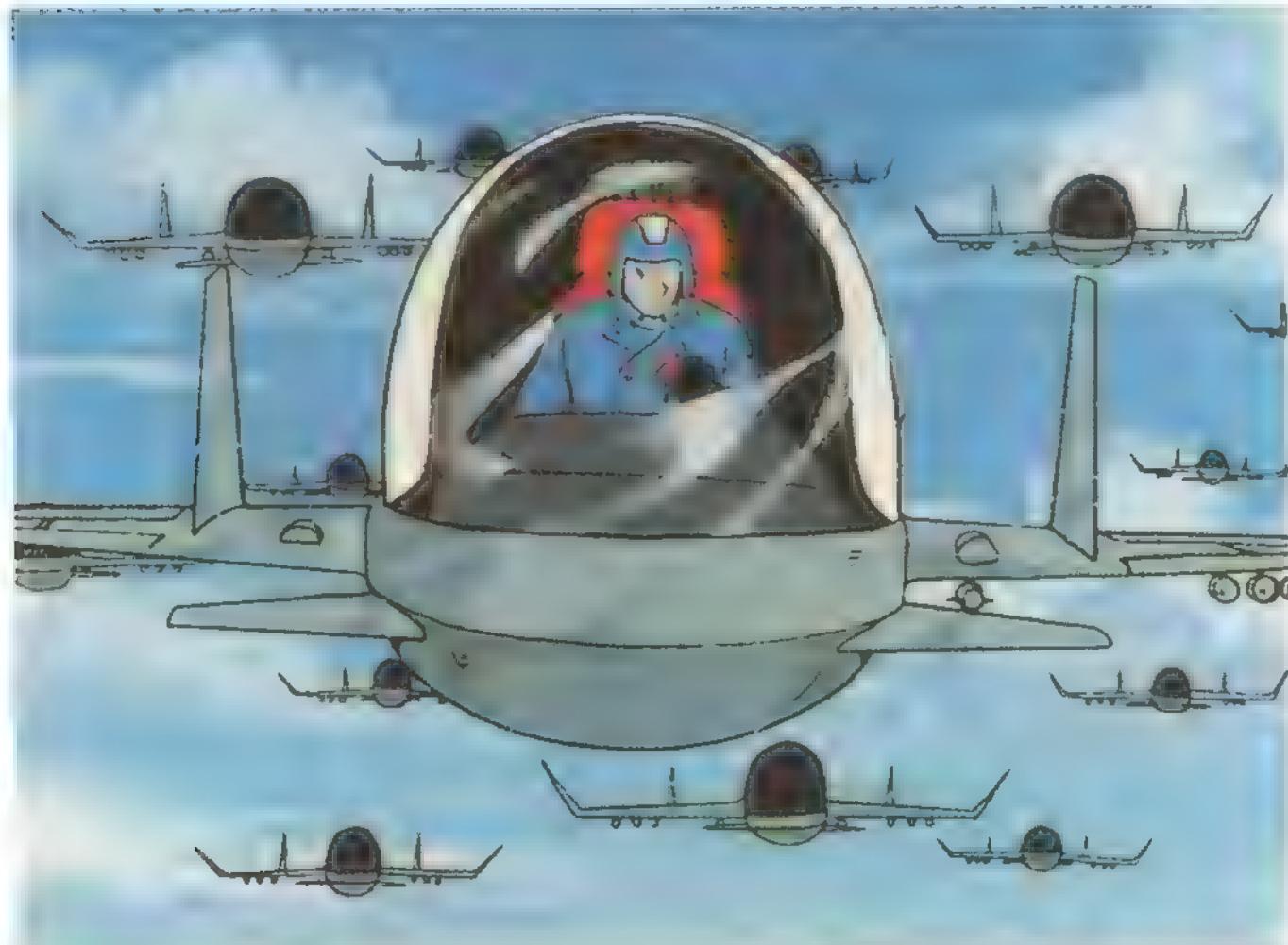


Out at sea, Cobra's Wild Weasel was on patrol.

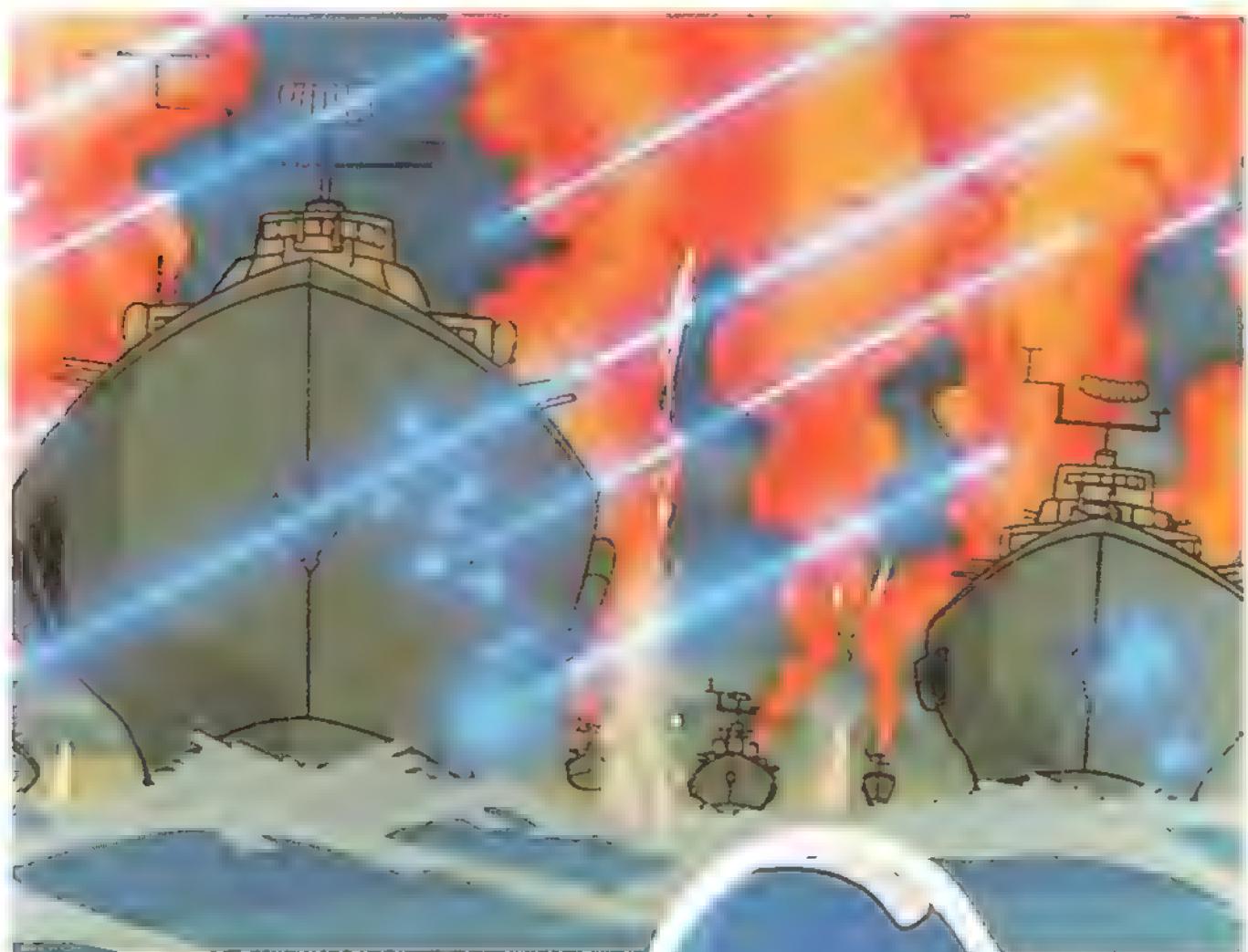
"Wild Weasel to Undersea Base. There's a huge task force heading towards you," he reported.

"Stay calm," commanded Destro from the base. "We'll intercept the ships."

"Sssome action! Wonderful!" cried Cobra Commander. "Cobra forcccesss – SSSCRAMBLE!" he shrieked. And within seconds a giant Cobra launch tower thrust into the sky from the sea bed. Dozens of Rattler jets, led by Cobra Commander, set out towards the task force.

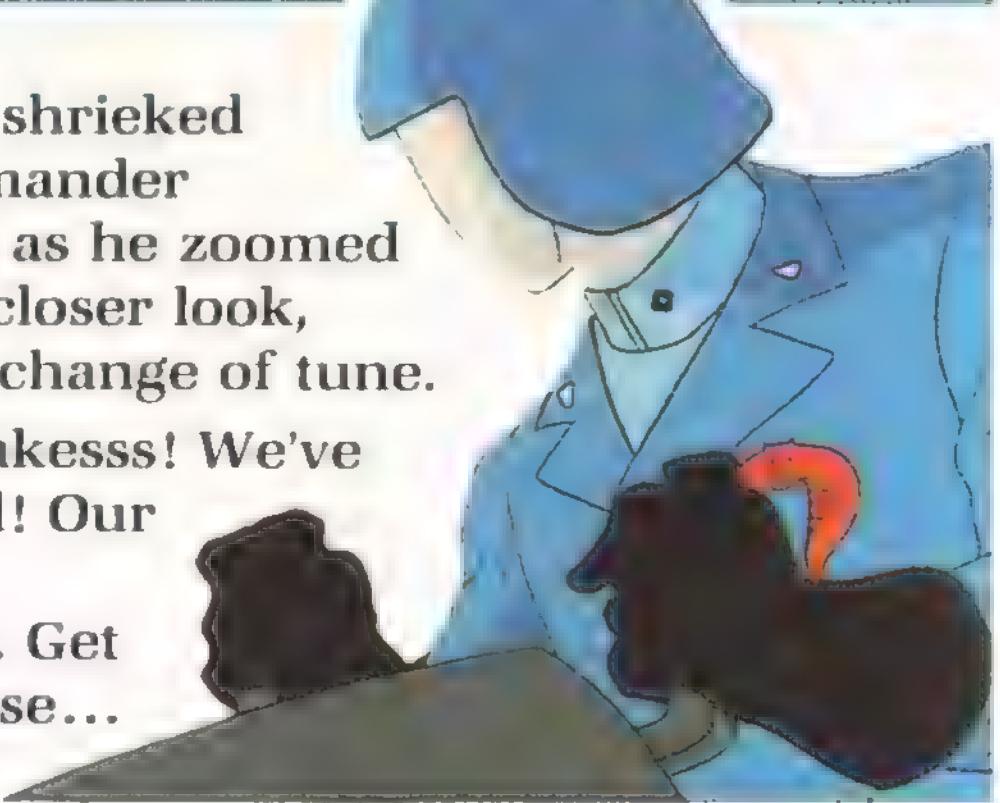


"Excccellent. We have the ssships in our sssights. Cobra...attack!" shouted the Commander. Next moment the entire task force was blazing under a rain of Cobra rockets.

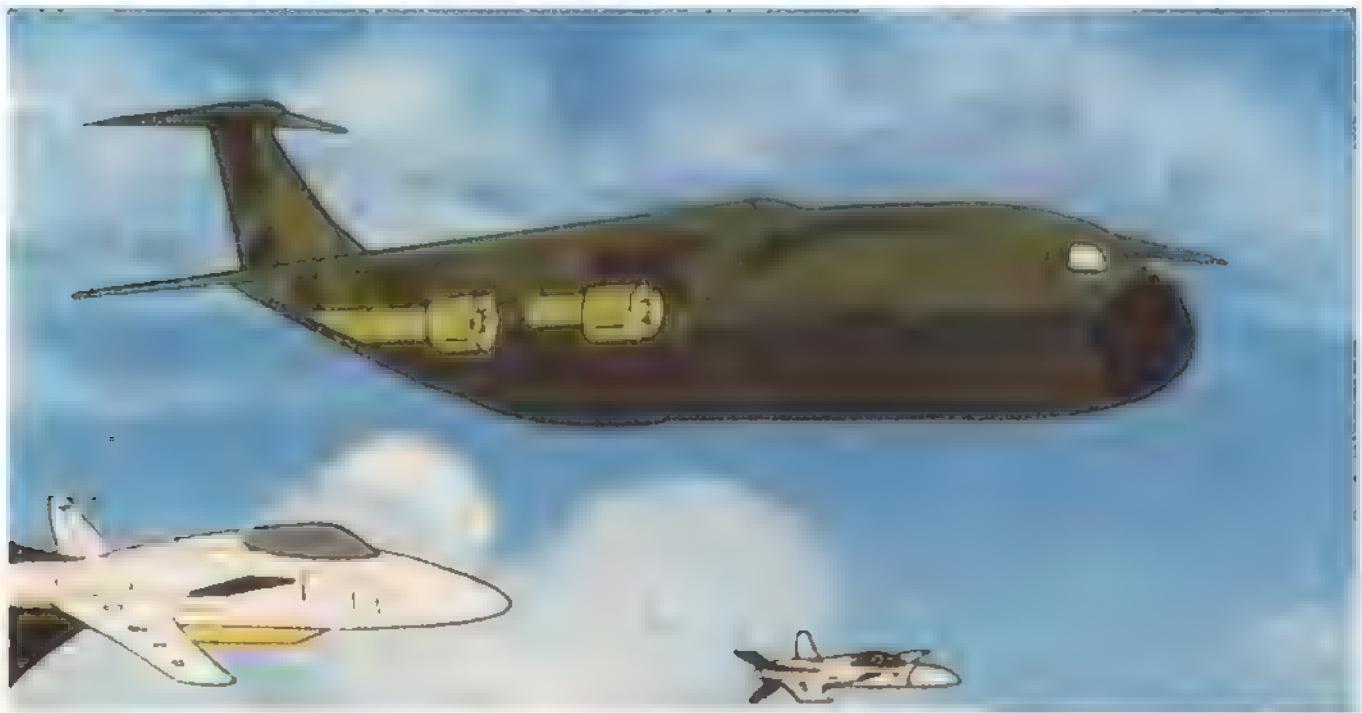


"Victory!" shrieked Cobra Commander joyfully. But as he zoomed down for a closer look, there was a change of tune.

"They're fakesss! We've been tricked! Our bassse is undefended. Get back to bassse... at onccce!"



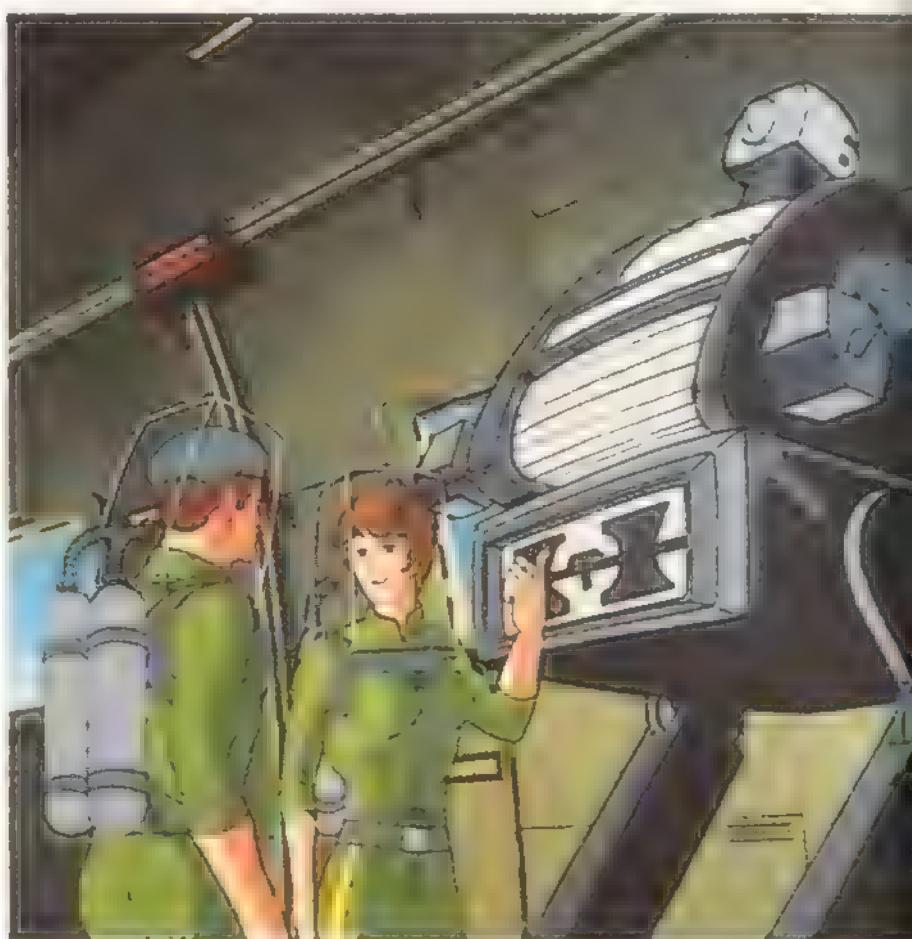
While the enemy were attacking the fake task force, the Action Force team were already on their way to the Cobra Undersea Base.



“Okay, men. We’re going to parachute in wet-suits, then dive down to the Undersea Base,” said Flint. “That’ll keep Cobra’s defences busy while Deep Six and Wet Suit disable the base.”

“What are these giant robots for?” asked Lady Jaye, looking round.

“Brute strength. If Wet Suit and Deep Six fail to deactivate the Vortex, these robots will wreck it! Now let’s get going!” shouted Flint, leading the dive out of the aircraft.

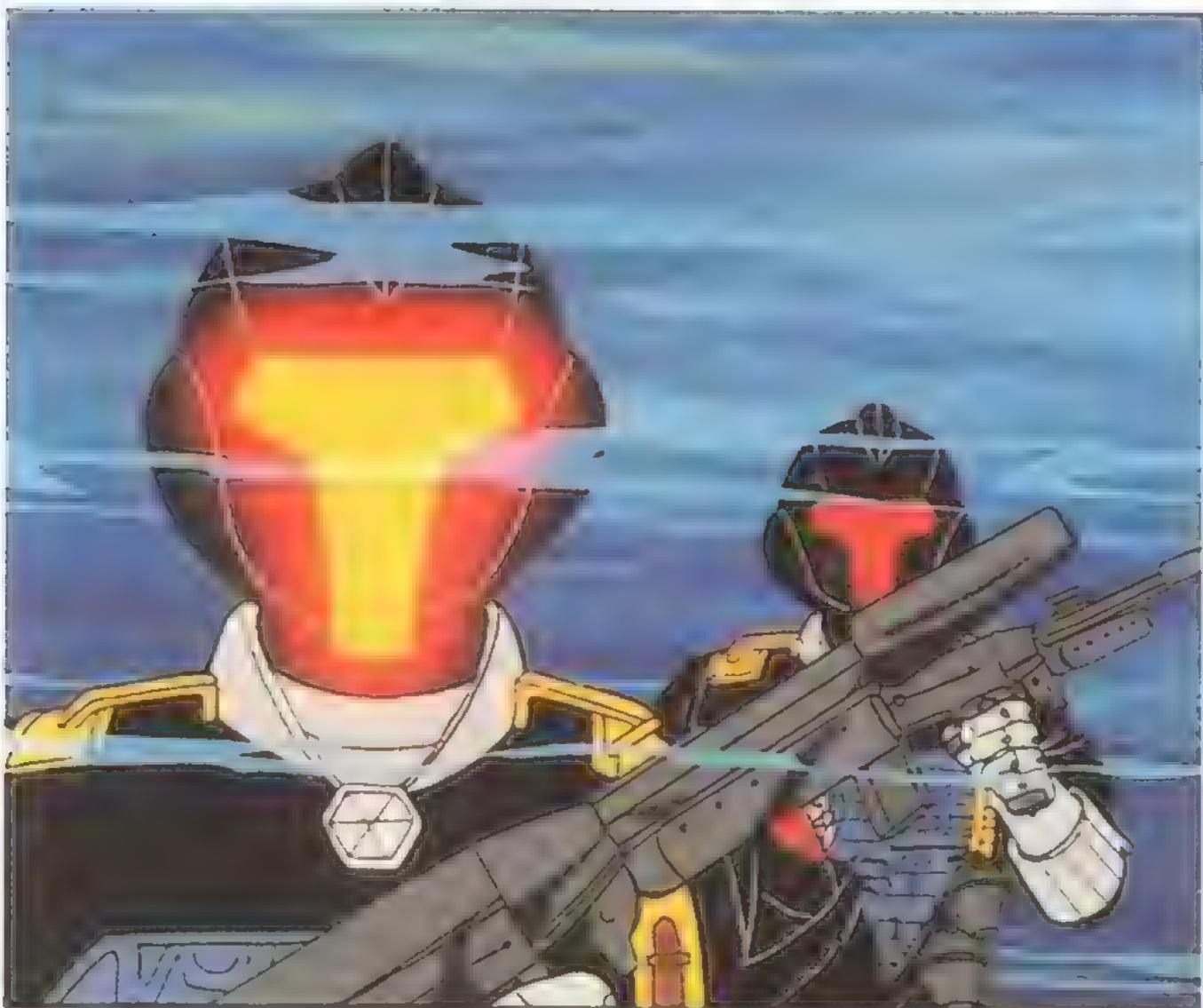


In the Undersea Base, Destro and the Baroness watched in horror as Action Force swam towards them.

“While Cobra Commander iz out playing games, ve’re under attack! Activate all defences!” ordered the Baroness.



“Don’t worry, my dear Baroness,” Destro soothed her. “My new Android robots will enjoy the exercise,” he added with a sneer.



The Android robots marched straight towards Action Force.



"We can't stop them!" shouted Shipwreck.
"Okay, just gut this robot of ours and climb inside," said Flint calmly.

But one Android suddenly grabbed Lady Jaye before she managed to get inside.

"Let her go!" shouted Flint. But he got too close and was also grabbed. Soon the pair were being carried back into the Undersea Base.

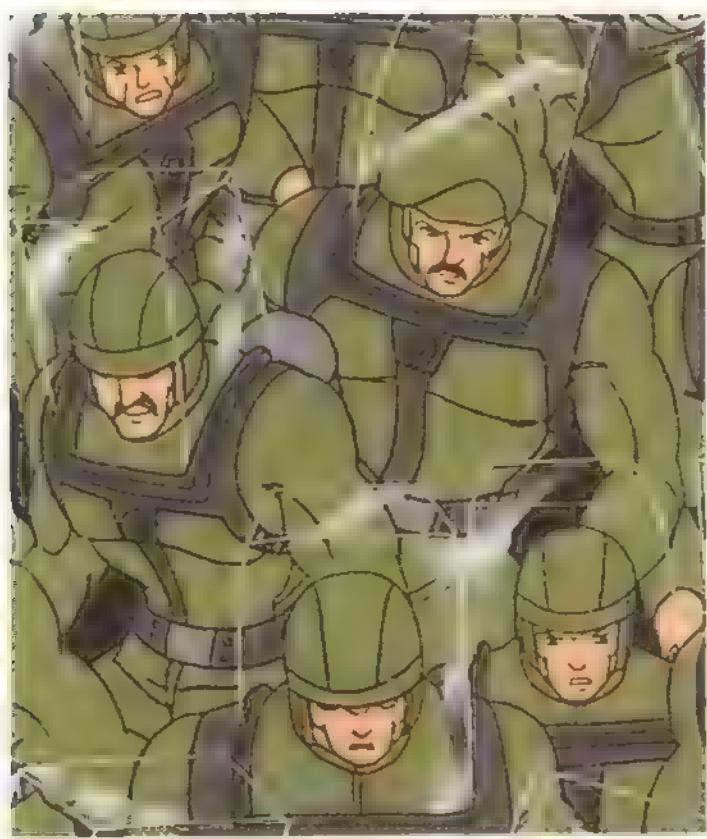


"So, zee last two survivors of zee troublesome Action Force," snorted the Baroness. Destro pressed a button and a trap-door opened, dropping the pair into a tank.

Almost at once, a giant, hungry octopus grabbed Flint. It had just opened its mouth for a little snack when Lady Jaye thrust her air bottle between its jaws.



There was an explosion as the octopus bit into the pressurised air tank, causing the stunned creature to drop Flint. Seizing their opportunity, Lady Jaye and Flint climbed out through the feeding hatch.



The rest of Action Force, still packed inside their gutted robot, were in trouble. Their air bottles had begun to run out.

"If we stay here, we'll die. We've got to attack the base," said Lifeline.

"Okay. Let's pay Cobra a little visit!" ordered Leatherneck.

They burst out of the metal frame and fired a laser lance through the base's dome. Having blasted an entrance, they managed to infiltrate the base.



Round the other side, Wet Suit was working at ripping wires out of a repair hatch.

"Stop him, Destro," said the Baroness.

"Leave him where he is. He doesn't know it, but he's busy destroying the waste disposal unit!" replied Destro.

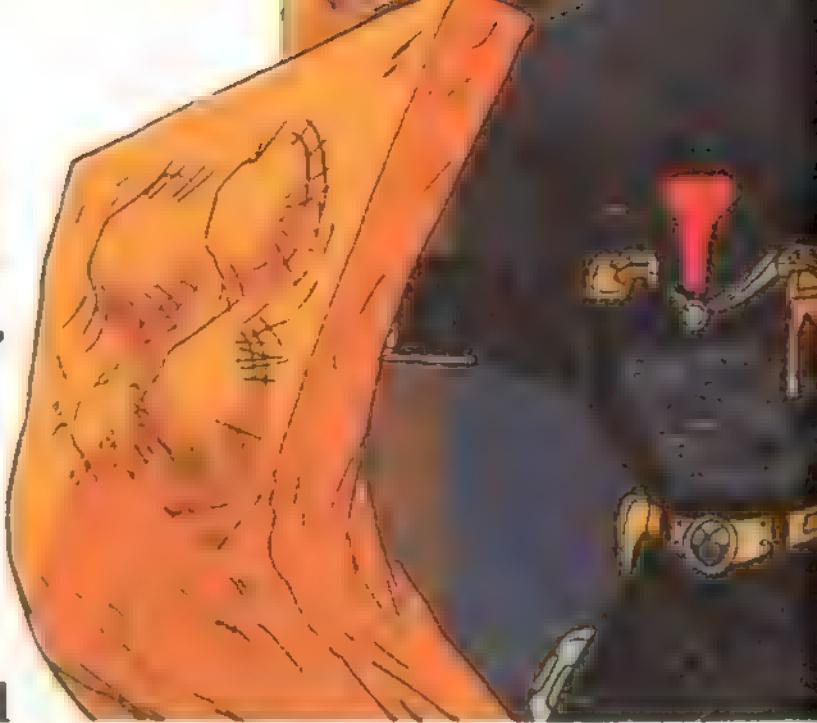
As they spoke, Cobra Commander burst in. He was seething with fury at his wasted attack on the task force.

"Action Forccce will wreck all my plansss." he screamed, hurling a chair in blind anger through the screen the others were watching. "There iss no time to wassste. We mussst activate the Giant Vortex ssstraightaway!"



Flint and Lady Jaye were now in the base's communications room, calling up Main Frame at Action Force headquarters. Just then an Android smashed through the steel door and grabbed Flint.

Quick-thinking Lady Jaye went to his rescue. She stuck a hair grip into the Android, making a short-circuit. The Android collapsed, and Flint was free. Lady Jaye leapt to the communications console.



"Come in, Duke! How's Main Frame getting on? ...We're running out of time here!"

Duke received the desperate message and turned to Main Frame.

"It's okay, Duke. We can read the disc and transmit it now. I've built a special vario-range floating pick-up head with transducers which..."



"Yes, great, brilliant. JUST PLUG IN THE DISC!"

Main Frame transmitted the data straight to Lady Jaye, and she realised instantly why the mission was failing.

"Come in, Wet Suit. Move to the panel on your right. YOU'RE AT THE WRONG PANEL!" she yelled.

Wet Suit swam round to the proper hatch just as the Giant Vortex Cone was activated.

The other Action Force divers were swimming down a corridor when Shipwreck got a nasty surprise. A damaged Android lying on the floor reached out and grabbed his leg.



"Arrghhh! Get off, you overgrown calculator!" he yelled. Leatherneck cut the metal arm away with his laser, leaving Shipwreck with the steel hand still on his leg!

Destro, the Baroness and Cobra Commander watched Wet Suit on the only undamaged television screen.

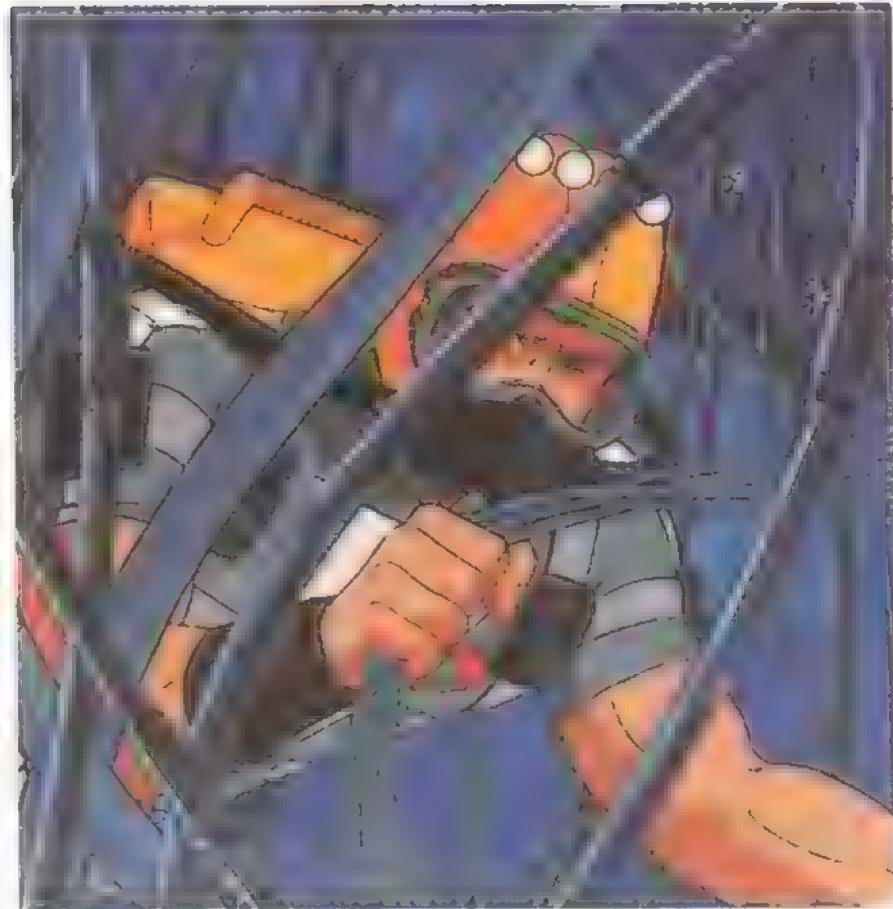
"Sssstop the fool!
He'sss damaging
my Vortex!"

"He'll blow zee
entire base. Let's get
out of here," screamed
the Baroness.



Reaching into the panel, Wet Suit grabbed the main power cables. "Well, this will either destroy the base...or me!" he muttered through gritted teeth.

There was a huge flash and Wet Suit was thrown free. The base exploded as the power short-circuited through it.





"The dome's flooding. Quick, get back in your diving gear, Lady Jaye," ordered Flint as sea water swirled round his ankles. He stopped to hoist a stunned Cobra guard over his shoulder before making his escape.

The Action Force team battled through torrents of incoming water to the calm sea outside.

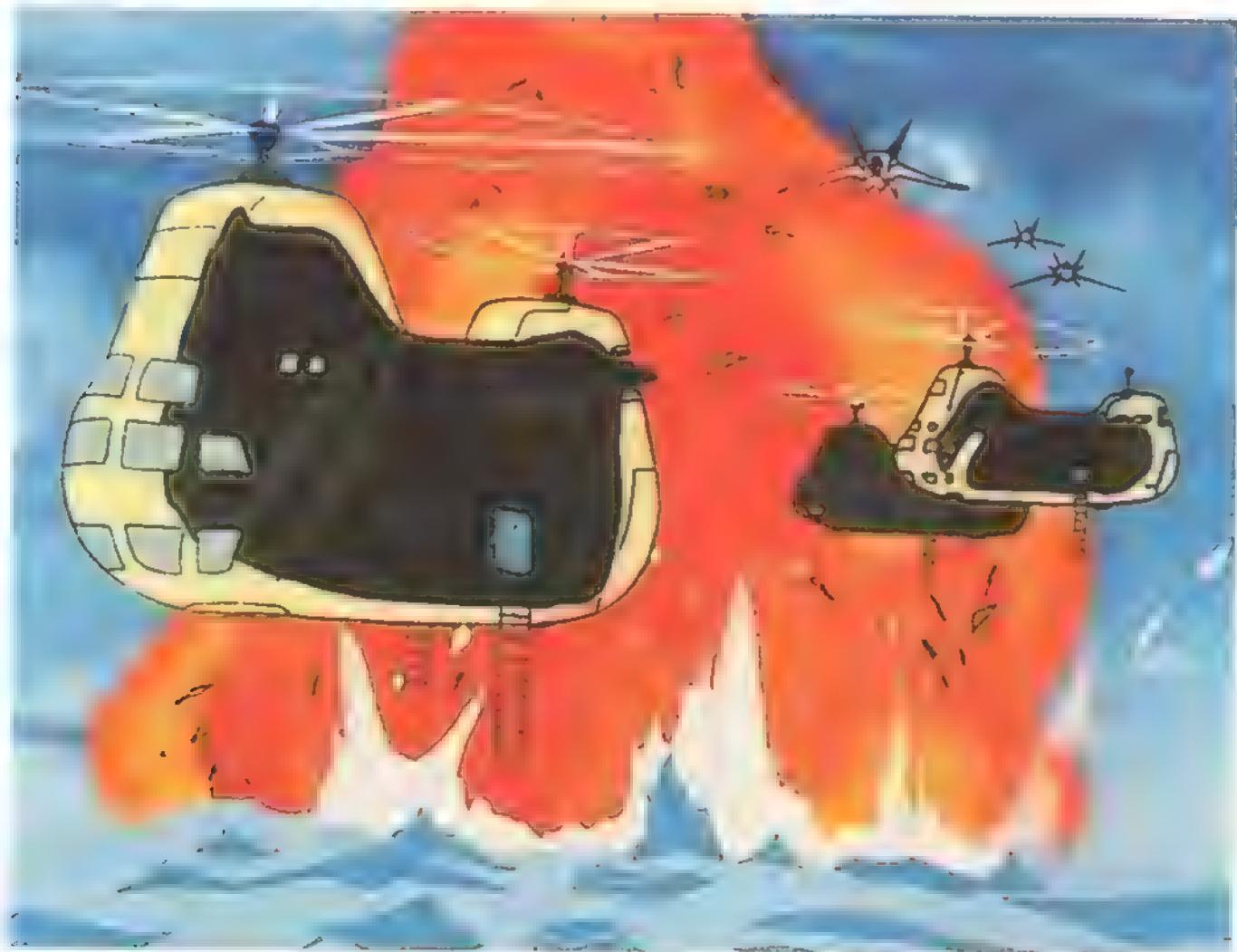
Cobra Commander and his cronies fled to the escape pod.



Then the sea turned to turmoil as the huge dome blew up completely.

The surface of the sea boiled as the heads of survivors bobbed up into view.

Overhead, Action Force helicopters dropped rescue ladders to pluck the survivors from the sea.



Flint immediately checked that everyone had survived and been rescued.

“All present and correct...with three notable exceptions,” he said grimly.

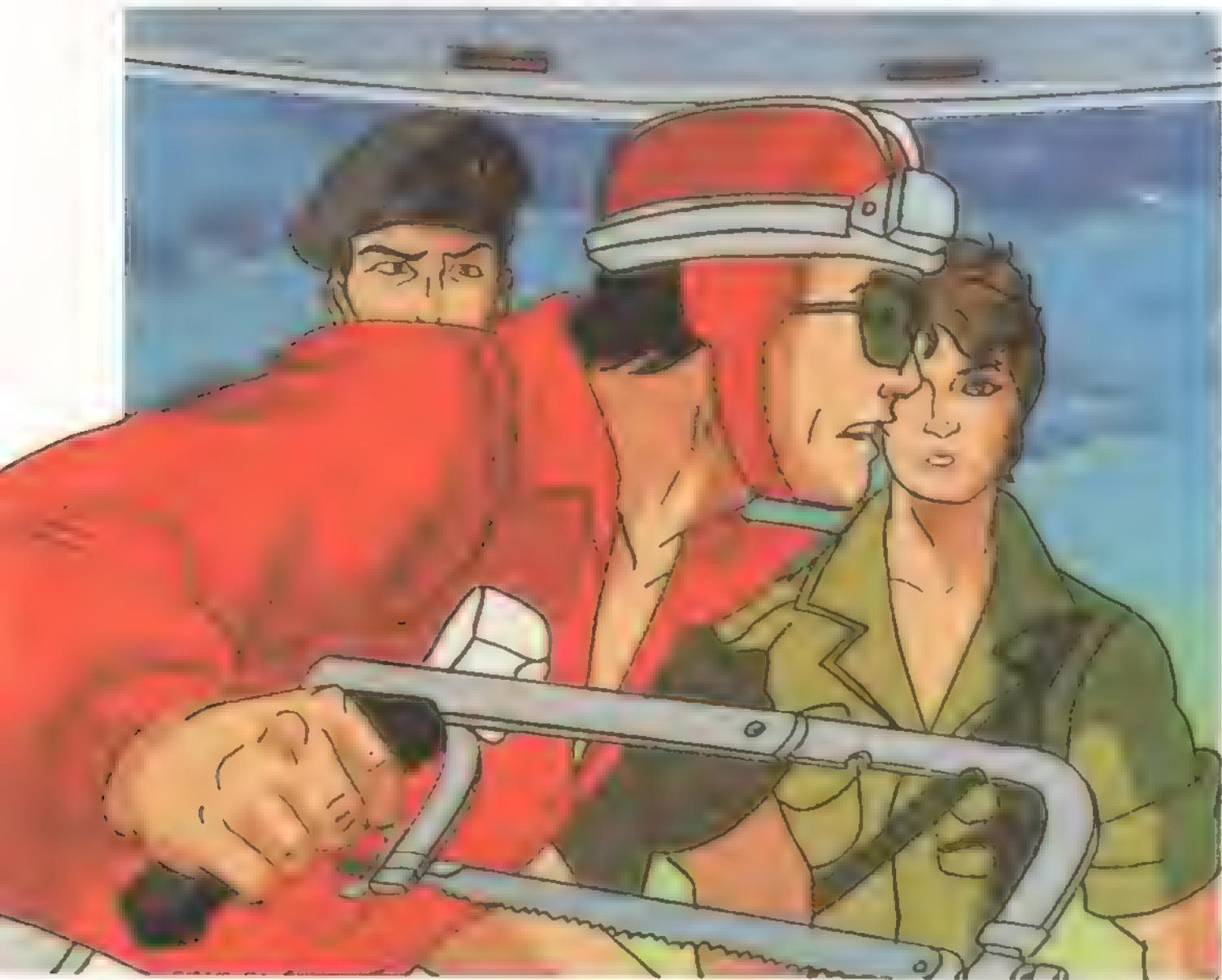
“Yes, it looks like Cobra Commander, Destro and the Baroness slipped the net again,” said Lady Jaye.



But if Flint and Lady Jaye thought the drama was over, they were wrong.

Suddenly Lifeline barged past. "Gangway... emergency. I've got to cut an arm off Shipwreck," he said, waving a saw.

"What! Shipwreck, are you all right?" asked Lady Jaye in alarm.



"Is he going to pull through?" added Flint gravely.

"Come and see for yourself," Lifeline replied, as he dived towards Shipwreck through the rest of the team.

"Oh! Och! Arrgg!" yelled Shipwreck.



As the dreadful sawing noises began, Flint peered over his comrades' shoulders to see the 'operation' in progress.

Lifeline was cutting the Android arm still gripping Shipwreck's leg.

"Some amputation!" laughed Flint with relief. "When I asked you to give us a hand, Shipwreck, I didn't mean it literally!"



"Ho, ho, very funny," grumbled Shipwreck. "Very funny indeed!"

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Flint is the European
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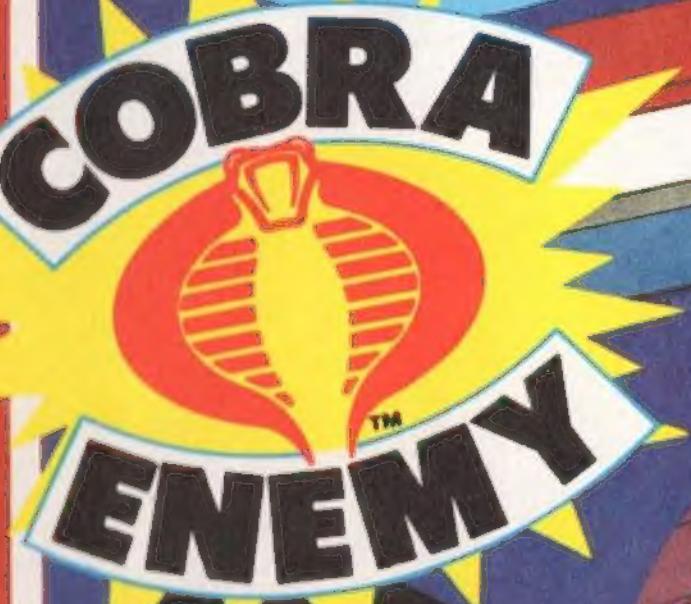
LADY
JAYE



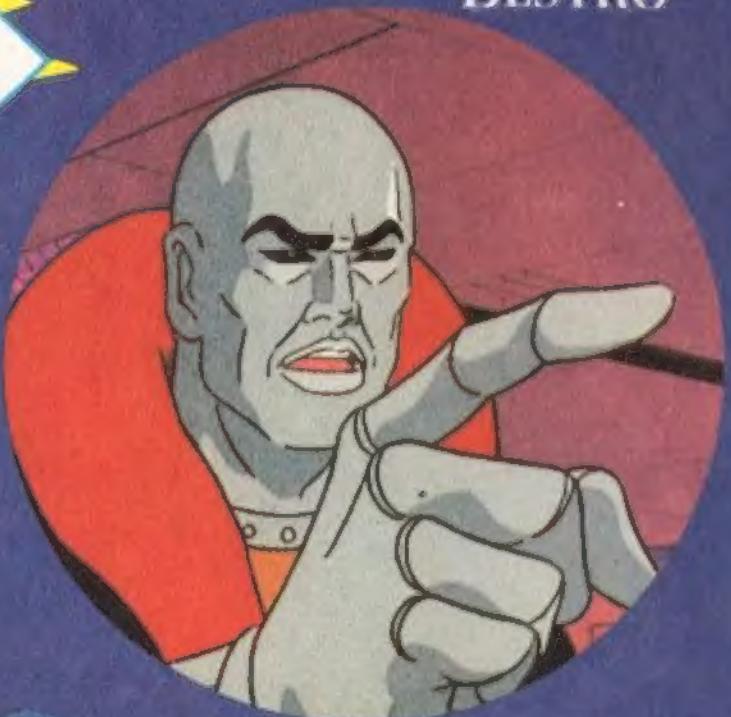
BAZOOKA



Cobra Commander heads the Cobra organisation. When the Action Force team spoils his plans, he makes new ones – and they all include the destruction of Action Force first...



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